

FAQ's for Erecting Signs in the City of Rockville

1) Do all signs require a sign permit?

All commercial signs require a sign permit. Temporary non-commercial signs such as yard sale and political signs are allowed without a permit but must meet the sign regulations

2) Are temporary signs permitted?

Temporary "Grand Opening" banner signs are permitted with a maximum area of 32 or 48 square feet (depending on the tenant's linear building frontage) for 60 days. A permit is required. Leasing/sale signs are permitted with a sign permit for up to 2 years and may be renewed.

3) How large a sign is allowed?

In most commercial and industrial zones the total aggregate area of all signs on the premises for each business/tenant must not exceed 2 square feet for each linear foot of exterior building wall enclosing the business/tenant space, up to a maximum of 50 square feet.

4) Are off premises signs permitted?

No, the sign must be on the same premises as the business.

5) Are signs permitted in the public right-of-way?

Only official public signs are allowed. No private/commercial signs are permitted.

6) Can I place a sign inside my business in the window?

Signs inside a building are permitted without a sign permit as long as they do not exceed 20 percent of the area of the window unit.

7) Do I need to apply for a new sign permit to reface an existing sign?

Yes, any alteration including re-facing a sign requires a new sign permit.

8) Are changeable message signs permitted?

Only churches, gas stations and movie theaters are permitted changeable message signs.

9) Can my sign flash, blink or give the illumination of movement or change color or intensity?

No, and this includes strobe, rotating beacon, chasing or zip lights.

10) Does my sign have to match the other signs in the shopping center?

Yes, for a lot occupied by more than 1 business/tenant, all of the building signs must be compatible with each other and harmonious in terms of design, color, shape, size, style,

and material and mounting.

11) **Can I use my logo?**

Yes, any trademark or logo of up to 20% of the sign area may be multi-colored, and in addition to the principal sign color, up to 2 additional accent colors may be used.

12) **Can I have a freestanding sign?**

Only one freestanding sign structure is permitted per record lot; however for a multi-tenant shopping centers the sign structure may contain the name of more than one business/tenant with additional requirements.

13) **Are election signs permitted?**

Election signs are permitted on private property in accordance with the regulations for temporary non-commercial signs for the relevant zone.

14) **Are signs permitted in residential zones?**

Yes, the total aggregate of all signs on a residential lot must not exceed 150 square inches. No sign permit is required.

The full text of the Rockville sign ordinance can be found in Article 18 of Chapter 25, the City of Rockville Zoning Ordinance. The on-line link is: <http://md-rockville.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/304>

For further information, visit the city's web site: <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/>

Sign permit forms can be found at:

<http://md-rockville.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/209>

Telephone us at: 240-314-8200

E-mail us at: Tdietrich@rockvillemd.gov